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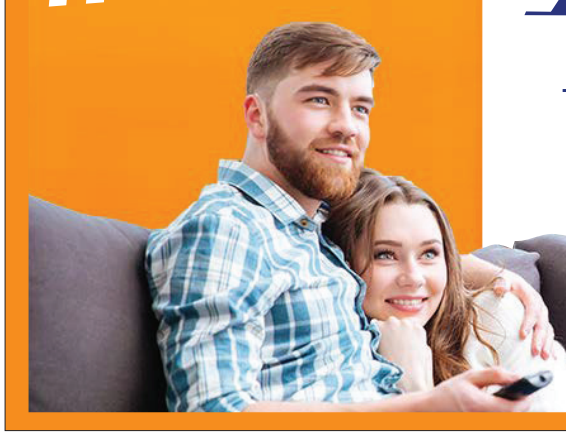
Art at HHSS

Check out submissions from our latest student artist from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on page 2.

Year of the pandemic

We catch up with area residents, who share their experiences over the past 12 months dealing with life alongside COVID-19. Starting on page 3.

A man feeds ducks from the bridge, as they gather in the water on March 6 in Head Lake Park in Haliburton. As the average temperature climbs, the number of visitors to the town park grows. /DARREN LUM Staff

IT'S TIME!

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HHSS student artist profile

Jocelyn Chumbley is a Grade 11 student at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and has taken visual arts and the yearbook class, along with summer art courses offered by Fleming College to improve her creativity and skills. Jocelyn is hoping to continue down the path of the arts and aspires to work as an animator in her future.

I have always been a creative person. Growing up I learned many musical instruments, sewing and hot glue crafts, but my main passion has always been art. You would see me walking around with countless pens and markers and at least one sketchbook. It was endless what I could do with my supplies.

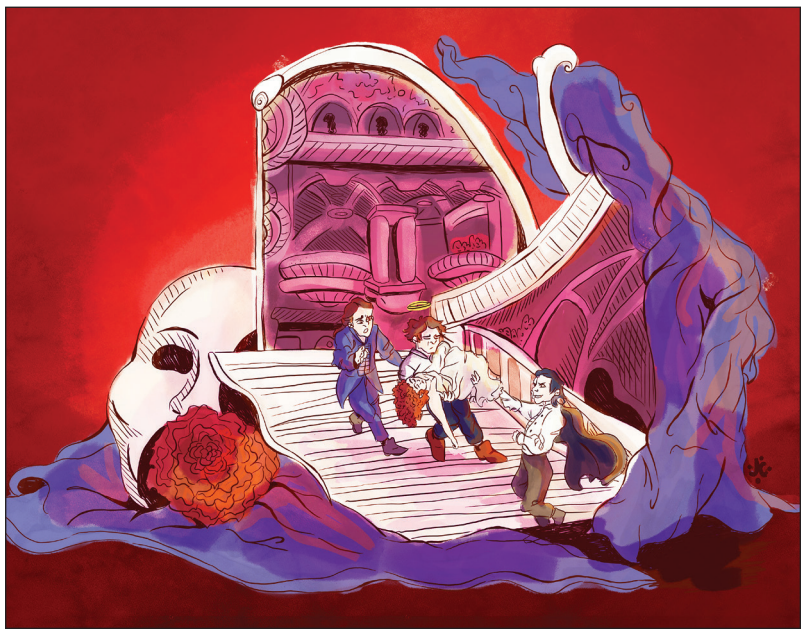
Though I did draw anything and everything, I've since found that my main love is people. I find people to be very expressive and fun to try to capture. Countless emotions can be said with just body positioning and expressions!

On New Years 2020 I made the decision to draw at least once every day for the entire year. I can say I was successful in my endeavour and there were shocking improvements in my work. Practice and repetition really are the best things for progress.

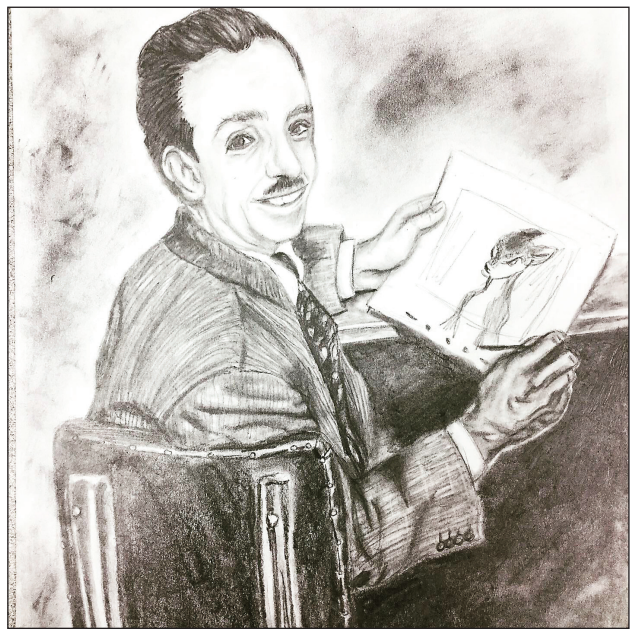
I love drawing little comics and making people laugh, seeing their faces light up! I tend to draw quickly and mostly in pen, adding random highlighter highlights for a burst of colour! For my larger artworks I capture what makes me happy, my interests, special moments, or my emotions. I bring my creativity into my everyday life!

I am very inspired by Disney and have a lot of good connections with their works. They inspire me to create my stories and even to animate and share them with my friends and family. I am specifically enamoured with seeing their rough animation works from the 2D animation era and admiring the work that these teams had to put in to create these stunning films. It's not uncommon to see me drawing and singing Disney songs or even watching their movies while I work.

My thoughts are: if you're passionate about something, it's never a chore. Make your own fun! Go out and do what makes you happy - it's worth it.



Dependence, 2020. Digital art on an iPad Pro with Apple pencil, measuring 9 x 7.



W is for Walt, 2019. Pencil on paper, measuring 11 x 11.

Hey Joey! Got anything good for breakfast?
Sam it's like 7pm
then how come i'm still in my pyjamas?
We haven't left the house in months?
Touche

Left, Friends, 2020. Black fineliner and marker on paper, measuring 8 x 6.

Touche, 2020. Black fineliner on paper, measuring 9 x 7.

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The Past Year of Pandemic

Community reflects on living life in the time of COVID-19

SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic. In Haliburton County, 52 cases of COVID-19 and one death due to the virus have been confirmed by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit since the beginning of the pandemic, in which to date, almost 117 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 2.5 million deaths have been reported globally. Here, residents of Haliburton County share their experiences after living through a year like no other.

Jack and Liam Ward of Wilberforce miss their visits to Arizona to see family, but have loved the time they've had to be together, playing outside. /Submitted

Elementary school students Liam and Jack Ward said the details of pre-pandemic times don't come to mind easily, but they do remember their last trip to see family in Arizona, and a date festival they went to there.

"I don't feel good about COVID, because it's not fun," said five-year-old Jack.

"I can't go and see my friends," said seven-year-old Liam. He added: "It's not fun."

The brothers from Wilberforce, who mom Stephanie said are like best friends, remember positive moments from the last year, too.

"Summer!" said Jack. "I like playing in summer. Swim, catch frogs, slide, play at our playground [in the backyard]."

"I like that we've had so much time off," said Liam. "I like having time to put together LEGO. I like all the skiing, too."

The last pre-pandemic experience Grade 11 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Olivia Johnson remembers having was the last day of school before March Break, March 13, last year.

"We were all excited to have an extra week of holidays, which never ended," she said.

The subsequent cancellation of events and programs, and restrictions to gathering with people have kept Olivia – and the rest of her family – close to home.

"During the past year, I've spent more time with my family since we haven't been able to go anywhere," she said. "It's been nice to feel so much closer with all of my siblings."

While the past year has been life-changing for everyone, extroverts have found it especially tough to miss out on socializing in the way that they are used to doing – those who know Olivia know her smiling face and outgoing personality.

"Most challenging for me was not being able to go to school like normal and see my friends," she said. "I'm a very social person, so not being able to see my people was a very big adjustment."

That interest in seeing people extended beyond school and her social circle, and into the greater community.

"What I'll remember most is not being able to see people's faces," said Olivia.

Olivia Johnson has been experiencing high school during the pandemic. While spending more time with her siblings has been great, not being able to see her friends in the same way has been challenging. /Submitted

"I always loved passing by someone in a store and smiling at them to see them smile back. Nowme, I miss seeing everyone's faces."

She's also missed the experience, so far, of being able to get her driver's licence.

"As far as my age group, 16 and in Grade 11, this year was the year that everyone gets their driver's licence and gets that extra freedom," she said. "Of course with COVID, it's been harder to actually get licences and now all of us feel like we're stuck in Grade 10."

Olivia knows that life won't always be like this – with vaccines being more widely distributed throughout the province, the end of so many restrictions for so many is potentially near.

"I just think it's important to remember that pandemics don't go on for eternity," she said. "All of the common viruses we have now were once a new one that had its own pandemic. I'm just looking forward to getting vaccinated and going on with my life."

The weekend before the pandemic was declared, Dr. Norm Bottum was at a grand opening for his son-in-law's new physiotherapy clinic.

"We were jammed shoulder-to-shoulder," he said. "There was a lot of discussion about the pandemic, and a little over a week later the clinic was locked down."

Bottum hasn't seen some of his family since that week-end. He lives in Haliburton Village and is a family physician with the Haliburton Family Medical Centre and Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

"There have been many challenges," he said. "Professionally, I feel it really

see page 4

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The Past Year of Pandemic

from page 3

is a secondary quality of care not seeing patients in person. There is concern for my patients most nights when I leave the office. Personally, having to judge every encounter with friends and family as to safety and appropriateness has been draining and unfulfilling."

Generally, Bottum thinks patients know that people in the healthcare profession do the best they can at all times, not just during a time of pandemic.

"Despite the hardships and risks involved, everyone I work with was willing to spend extra time and energy working as a team for our protection and the protection of our patients," he said. "There are many outstanding professionals at all levels of care in the community, hospital and our medical centre."

If anything, he said, the pandemic has taught us how vulnerable we are in this era of globalization.

"We need to move forward being mindful of this, not just related to the risk of disease but also economic and food hardship, and the ever present risk of our environment creating increasingly difficult living situations around the world," he said.

While a busy time for those in the healthcare profession – Bottum has also done shifts at the COVID-19 pandemic testing site in Haliburton and has been a source of information for local media outlets – he has found some pleasure in downtime created by the pandemic's cancellation of events and outings, too.

"I would rather have not had this time," he said. "But given the situation I am certainly grateful for the time to reflect, read books and enjoy crime dramas with my wife. I don't think there are too many left to be seen."

Sandy Cassman of Highland Grove remembers being on a late-winter shopping and lunch date in Bobcaygeon, then to Costco in Peterborough with two friends on March 12. It was the last "normal" activity she remembers before the pandemic was declared.

"We'd been hearing about a dangerous and fast-moving virus but had no idea what to expect next," she said. "Within four days the country was in lockdown, both of my sons had been laid off from work, and international travellers were starting to hurry home. Shortly after that, stories began to emerge about the cluster of cases in Bobcaygeon; at that point we knew that life would be drastically different for a long time."

Adjusting to life, including public health guidelines in grocery stores, was difficult for Cassman at first.

"It seemed as though there were new protocols every time I went out for groceries," she said. "I'm a very tactile person, so I had to train myself to keep my hands in my pockets until I had decided which item I wanted. I often felt rushed and pressured by others to move faster – it was very stressful at the beginning."

Mask-wearing has been an adjustment for everyone, and has been particularly hard for those who have loss of hearing, like Cassman.

"It's so frustrating sometimes, trying to understand what someone is trying to tell you from behind a mask and a sheet of plexiglass," she said. "The muffling of voices, as well as not being able to pick up clues from watching people speak, makes communication very difficult at times. Fortunately, most people are very patient, but I will not miss masks."

As treasurer of the Central Food Network, which runs the food banks in Highlands East, Cassman said she was delighted by the generosity of the community throughout the past year.

"We received many more donations than we had expected to; this in turn strengthened our confidence in our ability to be of service to our clients," she said.

"This is us, the Brownsberger-Petrie family, saying goodbye outside the airport to our oldest son as he returned to B.C. amid COVID," said Nancy Brownsberger. "It was a heart-breaking experience to be so far away from him during the pandemic."/ Submitted

Cassman looks forward to phone chats with friends, a new library book, or an online Scrabble game with her son, Eric.

"When you live in a time and place where life is somewhat constricted, small treats matter more," she said.

Jane Austin remembers the excitement of the days before March Break last year, the same way it always feels in the school with that week-long vacation approaching.

"There is an energy that ripples through the building," said Austin, the principal at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. "The holiday is approaching, the days are getting longer and people are keen for some spring weather. The moment that brought about change happened in that week as well when we heard on the news that the schools would be closed following the March Break. That was the tipping point in my consciousness with the realization that things were changing."

After March Break was extended by two weeks, and then eventually until the end of the school year, educators very quickly pivoted to take their learning online for students who could complete assignments from home on their own devices or laptops borrowed from the school. In September, brick and mortar schools opened, as did virtual learn-at-home opportunities, with some teachers and students being physically in a classroom, and some teaching and learning online from home.

"Life as an educator during the pandemic has been challenging," said Austin. "We are given a gift each day to spend with young people and to help them to learn, be good people and to be leaders. We take our responsibilities seriously. The pandemic has created many obstacles that add an increased level of stress to educators. Expectations shift and evolve as new information and data inform politicians and health officials. However, because these amazing educators, and particularly the staff at ASES are so dedicated they continue to work hard each day, these obstacles never get in the way of our intention to make each day a good day for our students. We pledged when we returned to work that we would focus on synergy, success, well-being and wonder and that has grounded our work. We are so proud of our school and our community."

Austin said in her personal life, her family has spent more time together with "less running around and general busyness;" they've had the opportunity to be more collaborative and supportive of one another and their community throughout the pandemic; and they have taken the opportunity to connect and reconnect virtually with people they haven't connected with in years. Professionally, she said she has had the opportunity to witness the very best of people as staff works together in the school community to keep each other safe and healthy.

"I have gained a new appreciation of togetherness and connection that I refuse to take for granted when things go back to 'normal,'" she said.

As for so many others, for Austin, the year has also been filled with worry.

"I try to mitigate this worry by focusing on those things that I can control and can affect but the worry is always there," she said.

She worries for her family, especially those loved ones who might be high-risk, and also her school community trying to always ensure everyone has what they need to be safe and healthy.

In a report released last month by advocacy group People for Education

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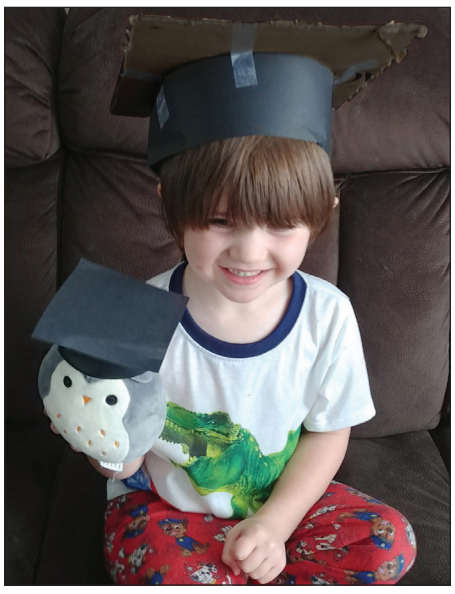

James Jowett-Rogers, and his owl, Hootie, graduated senior kindergarten last year during lockdown. "It was a very memorable time for our family," said his mom, Jennifer Jowett./Submitted

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The Past Year of Pandemic

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after surveying principals at 1,173 schools across the province, 57 per cent of principals at virtual schools and 49 per cent of principals from in-person and hybrid schools said their levels of stress were not manageable.

Asked what she will most remember of this time, Austin said it's the creativity that she sees everywhere.

"People have harnessed the power of their creativity to make their lives work in the midst of this pandemic," she said. "I see it in the local business and in the arts community. I see creativity in the play that students are engaging in on the school yard. I see it in the staff members' approach to teaching the students in brick and mortar school and in virtual school; while we are open for business and when we were shut down and learning from home. I see it in our families who help support their students boomerang their belongings back and forth each day. I see it in the displays of thanks for front line workers in windows and front yards. It is energizing and amazing. I hope we continue to harness its power even after this pandemic has ended."

Larry O'Connor was in a warmer climate – Mexico – when he said he and his wife Christina received word from the Canadian government to return home.

"Having been on a board of health for over a decade, I know that public health agencies have predicted a pandemic for years now," said the Minden Hills resident. "Well, it finally arrived."

Travelling home, he and Christina worried about driving home safely and avoiding the virus along the way, which thankfully, he said, they did.

O'Connor said he recalls that his grandmother died during a tuberculosis epidemic at the Muskoka Sanitorium – later known as the Muskoka Regional Centre – in 1943. In October, O'Connor's mother died

Larry O'Connor has developed a passion for the Indigenous art of beading during the pandemic. "I definitely plan to get vaccinated as soon as I can," he said. "In the meantime, I will bead and stay safe." /Submitted

in North Bay – during the pandemic, but not of COVID-19.

"We had a very small funeral for her and still grieve," he said of his loss.

O'Connor said that the government has failed to protect vulnerable people in long-term care. He's also feeling unsafe in these times, himself.

"I miss visiting with so many family and friends, that sense of being confined to home to be safe really hit home," he said. "I have found things like grocery shopping once a month has been nerve-wracking, and I just don't feel safe."

The pandemic and resulting cancellations and restrictions have changed what O'Connor has been able to do as host of Tales from the Big Canoe, an Indigenous radio program on Canoe FM.

"Having face-to-face interviews have been nearly impossible," he said. "Almost all community events have not taken place, like powwows, where I typically chat with many of my guests."

O'Connor has, however, been able to share some of his traditional Métis experiences during two week-long virtual summer camps for Indigenous kids in the area. He's also used the time he has at home during the year to immerse himself in the Indigenous art of beading.

"I have completed many Métis regalia type projects and have as well established a new passion," he said.

And while they might need to enjoy their time together in less warm climates at the moment, he's also been able to spend more time with his wife of 40 years.

"Like most married couples, I spent more time with my spouse than I could have imagined, and we still really like each other's company," he laughed.

Though the year hasn't allowed for all of the same opportunities as before, for O'Connor, it's given him the chance to pursue other interests. He hopes he might be able to have more face-to-face interaction again, soon.

"As an advocate for good public health, I definitely plan to get vaccinated as soon as I can," he said. "In the meantime, I will bead and stay safe."

Judy Toye arrived home from Florida last March on Saturday the 14th, when there was still talk of closing the Canada/U.S. border – it would close on March 18, 2020, to non-essential travel and continues to be closed now, until at least March 21, 2021.

"We had been watching the news while we were away and knew things were becoming serious," said Toye, who settled into her 14-day quarantine at her Minden home as the province began shutting down.

At the end of June, after a long career as a registered nurse, Toye was able to begin her planned retirement.

see page 7

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What is community-based research and why do we need it?

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE
Special to *County Life*

If you live in Haliburton County, you might know a little bit about U-Links. You might know that we help local community organizations answer questions they have about a new initiative or existing process, solve a particular problem they are facing, or simply learn more about themselves. We do this by matching research proposals developed with community organizations ("host organizations") to Fleming and Trent students, who then undertake the research over the course of one or two semesters.

Often the research has an experiential component, with the students visiting the community to meet the host organization in person and undertaking field work, but some types of research can be done remotely, especially now. The final deliverable is usually a report, policy brief or other document that the community organization can then use to put the research into action. All final deliverables are then stored in U-Links' public database at www.ulinks.ca so that the data is fully accessible to anyone who is curious about the results, or needs ideas or solutions for their own work.

What you might not know is exactly what community research means. When most of us think of the word "research", we often think of a student or professor in a library or in a lab, researching or analyzing something that is of interest to them, inspired by their own intellectual curiosity and using the results to benefit the academic community.

Community-based research is a different approach to research. It prioritizes a collaborative approach to research, design and development that ensures all partners are equitably engaged in the research process, and recognizes the unique strengths that each partner brings to the table.

Community-based research seeks to democratize knowledge creation by prioritizing local community context and expertise, and making the results accessible to wide audiences beyond the 'ivory' towers of traditional academic research. If the research is done well and the data is used by the host organization, (called "knowledge mobilization") the results can be transformative – advancing the goals of the organization and sometimes even creating ripples that influence public policy and academic research.

Because of the multiple stakeholders involved in community-based research and the diverse perspectives they bring, the roadmap to complete a research project sometimes involves a number of unexpected twists and turns. The structures and processes of academic institutions may not always line up with the dynamic schedules of a small rural non-profit, for example. This is why it is important to have a firm project agreement in place from the beginning that is periodically referenced throughout the course of the project, but to also build in a measure of flexibility in meeting milestones.

In 2019, Trent University Sustainability Studies graduate student Emily Amon completed her thesis on the impact of U-Links' community-based research on Haliburton County. She identified several important factors in contributing to good research outcomes. One was the passion, engagement and learning of the student researchers. Another was the quality of the research itself, which depended on the standard of rigour, the utility of the research, and project depth and scope. Strong relationships within the project team were identified as an important factor as well, increasing the odds that the project 'runs itself'. Finally, community engagement – community members feeling excited about the project and included in the decision-making – was an important key to success.

Emily's research also found that even when the project did not go as planned or the knowledge was not mobilized in the way it was intended, none of the past project hosts interviewed regretted participating in the project, as there were often nuanced social benefits that became apparent later. She concluded in her article "Brokering Community Based Research" in the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning (vol 26, no. 1, 2020) that "the very act of bringing people together and engaging in community-based research can transform the social landscape, creating positive ripple effects for future community endeavors."

A number of community-based research projects in Haliburton County have had a lasting impact on our local community. These projects will be explored in upcoming articles. Until then, stay tuned for our next article in April on how to start a research project with U-Links!

Top 10 reasons why I wouldn't mind a little quicksand

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

I THINK THAT Haliburton County is great. We have fresh air, trees, beautiful geography, tranquil lakes and rivers, and a thousand exciting things to do. Really, the only thing that's missing is quicksand.

Quicksand is one of those highly under-rated natural features. In fact, it normally gets nothing but negative press – and that's unfair. That's why I collected 10 reasons why we should import some here.

They are:

1. Fewer visits to the landfill.
2. Seems like it would be a good place to hide the lawnmower.
3. It would keep everybody on their toes.
4. If you think about it, it is sort of like a pool with resistance training.
5. It would make my "Caution, quicksand!" sign business really take off.
6. It would make any Jeep Jamboree just a bit more challenging.
7. If you filled the bottom to three feet, you could jump in and have a lot of fun seeing who the real heroes are.
8. No better place to jump out of and yell "Boo!" from.
9. Three words: unique tourism experience.
10. Great testing ground for the homemade submarine.

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orb of Sun,
cowering behind an armour of clouds,
its steely eye blinking down at Snow,
veiling Air in a silence I inhale as I march across the
tundra of Lake,
along the tracks skidoos leave behind,
staring at that invisible line where Snow meets Sky,
drinking in the whiteness of the horizon, that
I will never reach,
but keep going anyway, squinting at the three
fishing huts springing from Snow,
small as stones, uncertain whether the smudge I see,
is fishing or trudging through the Snow, like me,
beneath this milky bowl of Sky,
spilling light onto Snow, hanging so low,
I stare it straight in the eye,
wondering about fishing holes that are carved
through the ice,
and whether the Lake feels the Air and light sink
through the blackness into the depths,
whether the fish are lured towards the prick of Sky,
or do they only see the blurriness of water and each
other as they swim towards the bait?
I slow my gait as I near the huts,
the three stones now bulging like boulders
from the Snow,
the smudge I saw, huddled inside.
I gaze past the huts towards the horizon,
that boundless border between Snow and Sky, that
Wind crosses all the time,
its openness seeping into me, stripping me bare to
only this feeling of being Alive,
as Wind pummels me, scouring thoughts
from my mind.
I blink at the huts hunched in the Snow,
then turn back around, to march back
towards the shore,
letting the figure in the hut, be,
not wanting to trespass across his peace with the
crunch of my steps
or the noise of my voice,
leaving him with the soundlessness of fish
swimming through the blackness,
towards that droplet of Air and light,
that teases the Lake as it sleeps deep sleep,
the squawk of a seagull flapping past,
dripping into its dreams.

Sylvie Kalenda

The Past Year of Pandemic

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Frontline healthcare workers have been applauded for their work during the COVID-19 health crisis and have also lived through the general population's stress as it came to terms with ever-evolving public health restrictions and guidelines.

"Life as a nurse is very challenging," said Toye. "It is frustrating when people complain about wearing a mask to go into a store yet nurses – and all others in the department, housekeepers, x-ray technicians, etc. have to wear a mask for 12-hour shifts, as well as face shields, gloves, gowns. We went in for scenarios so we would be comfortable looking after a COVID positive patient and you would have all the PPE on and you would feel like you were going to pass out from being so hot. No one understands what this is like day in and day out. It's hard to do that everyday and people think it's all made up or won't follow the guidelines."

Making the transition and beginning retirement during the pandemic had challenges of its own.

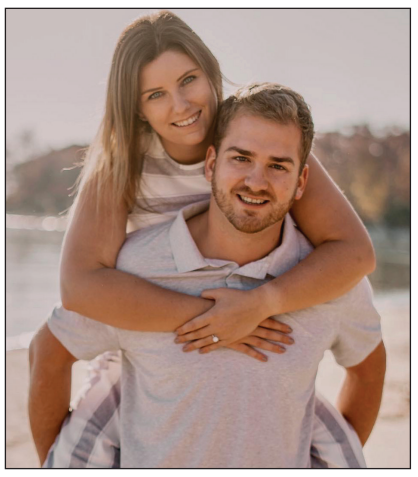
"Summer is always busy for me, I have a huge vegetable garden, many flower gardens, and a pool to enjoy," said Toye. "I make many preserves so am always busy. My plan on retirement was to make pies and sell them, as well as do knitting/crocheting orders. I was incredibly busy doing all these things. We had Thanksgiving with lots of orders and then Christmas that I had lots of orders for. A lot of time was spent sitting instead of my busy career, and as many people have found, the weight started to add on."

Toye said it was very difficult to be home all the time after being immersed in a stimulating environment, and not even be able to stop into work to visit with her work colleagues.

"I had worked with some of the doctors for 25 years and I always felt a strong relationship with them," she said. "I had enjoyed my career and was well-known in the community as I had worked at Minden hospital for 35 years. It was a huge change from working to being locked up at home. Despite being busy with all my hobbies, I missed the people."

Like others were experiencing during provincial stay-at-home orders, Toye felt she needed to make changes to cope with the pandemic restrictions – staying busy with a hobby wasn't enough, she needed to get out and get moving.

"As of the new year I decided I had to get out," she said. "I hate winter and our retirement goal of going to Florida for a month got squashed. There wasn't anything to look forward to. I began snowshoeing. Now I'm out everyday getting the fresh air and much-needed exercise. I still miss visiting people and seeing my oldest son and his family but that's the way it is for now."



Chris Duchene celebrated the engagement of her daughter Jessica to Nate Feir in November. The birth of her granddaughter Jaymes to Matt and Ashley, was also celebrated in November. / Submitted

Chris Duchene remembers spending Family Day weekend in Nashville last February with her whole family – "flying, going to hockey games, restaurants."

A guidance counsellor at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Duchene realized life was going to change in March, when staff would not be returning to the school building after the break, instead preparing to work from home and convert to an online platform for students.

She was intending to retire last June, but said that after realizing the seriousness of the pandemic, decided to work a few more months into the new school year in the fall to do what she could to "help with the new normal" in the school.

"Watching the students exit the busses on that first day in September, all wearing masks and looking very anxious about how school was going to look, made me sad and teary," she said. "I very quickly realized that through the impressive leadership of our administration and the caring and kindness of our teaching staff, students adapted and benefited from being back with their friends and resuming a routine with in-person learning. Seeing this in person, helped me cope with the sadness of the situation."

Duchene said she has witnessed strength and resiliency in young people who have been dealing with the pandemic during their high school years.

"Many families are dealing with tremendous hardship due to isolation, job loss, food security, etc. and yet students in both elementary and secondary schools are pressing on and managing to resume their school lives even though they have to deal with stressful personal situations and COVID protocols and routines that they had never experienced in school," she said. "Also, some students for various reasons have had to learn at home and they also had to adapt to a situation that

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may have not been the way they wanted to attend school but are doing their best to be successful."

Duchene said she will always remember not being able to see her parents or family on a regular basis, but that she will also remember the help and generosity people extended to each other.

"Many of our teaching staff became creative within the protocols in our school to help students enjoy school as much as possible," she said. "The virtual graduation was the absolute best it could be and on a day-to-day basis, teachers are finding ways to create virtual activities to promote school spirit and some fun for the students."

In November, Duchene was able to celebrate two milestone events: the engagement of her daughter, Jessica to Nate Feir, and the birth of her second grandchild, Jaymes, to son Matt and his wife Ashley. Not being able to see her new granddaughter has been challenging, she said, but she's been able to connect and stay close with her through Facetime. She's also been in awe, she said, of front line workers and students who stepped into front line jobs in essential workplaces, as well as the perseverance of teaching staff to convert their teaching to an online platform and offer flexibility and compassion to students and families dealing with hardships and barriers.

"I'm proud to be a resident of Haliburton County, and witness the caring, generosity and resiliency of our front line, mental health and essential workers and the way our residents have adapted and followed rules to protect and ensure the safety of others," said Duchene

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At Molly's Bistro Bakery, staff misses Santa popping in for a visit on the annual parade day, ice racing and the truck pull, the county fair, family and friend get-togethers, an open arena, sitting and chatting with customers in the "office," and "anything normal."

"Some of us thought it was just a bad flu that would go away like all the others and a couple of us said that they thought this was going to be bad, really bad," said comments from staff to County Life on their thoughts and reflections of the past year.

Last year in March, staff were largely laid off while the business remained open promoting take-out meals, frozen meals and soup during the first provincial state of emergency declared March 17, when bars and restaurants were closed to service outside of take-out food and delivery.

The staff at Molly's Bistro Bakery in Minden have been adapting to meet public health guidelines and offer up meals, take-out and contests that work for the community alongside the pandemic since last March. /Submitted

"Business wise we had to get a little creative," said Molly McInerney, who owns and operates the bistro with Guy Dumas. "Molly's isn't really a take-out place; more a meet up with friends place. So we expanded our frozen food offerings and added the weekly 'Date Night' experiences."

They've also promoted holiday meals "with all the fixin's" and held giveaways on their Facebook page.

And through it all, they've supported each other through challenges that have come up for each other throughout the year: interacting with people who are confused about what restrictions are currently in place, sending kids to school while feeling they don't get to experience the fun that kindergarten traditionally has been, even through interesting hairstyles when hair appointments were on hold.

"Our staff has grown closer," reads one comment from staff. "We were a 'family' before but now I think we might actually be related."

Former Gelert resident Noelle Russell's photos of her engagement to Jamieson Gilmour include what most of us are used to seeing during the pandemic - masks. But Russell and Gilmour, in Western Australia, have only had to wear masks a few days – during one lockdown – when the proposal also happened. /Submitted

Noelle Russell was on a bus to school when an announcement on the news, which she saw through Facebook, alerted the former Gelert resident to a shutdown in her state in Western Australia.

"There was no travelling outside your region, which meant controlled interstate borders, and you needed an actual reason to leave as the roads were blocked," she said. "It was just over two months at the beginning of the pandemic when we had severe restrictions as in travel, and the whole state closing down. Our state government was so terrified to have an outbreak here, we barely had any cases – therefore, no masks, etc."

It's a different situation than the one Russell's family and friends back home in Ontario are facing, with provincial lockdowns, mandatory masks and virtual meetings and school. Russell said she'll remember "how weird the world is at the moment."

"I remember back in May when Western Australia went back to normal life as we hadn't had a single case in weeks," she said. "My friend and I went out to one of the clubs in the city for 'the countdown,' which was a

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countdown until midnight – restrictions lifted – but before the midnight strike if you were caught dancing, you were kicked out. It was basically *Footloose* in real life and I don't think I can forget that. And the weird phone calls I have to home, about myself and Jamieson [Gilmour, Russell's partner] headed out for a weekend of fun and my poor family in lockdown. We're literally in two different worlds."

Russell said everything opened up back in May, but for their state border which they anticipate to ease up again soon.

"The Australian government had no travelling between states unless for good reason," she said. "We've basically been landlocked here. Which baffles me that people in Ontario have been – up until recently – allowed to leave?"

Russell said she sometimes forgets the rest of the world, and occasionally the rest of Australia, "is in such distress," as they are living COVID-free in her part of the world. In January this year, with the report of one case, the state returned to what Russell called an intense lockdown for five days, and masks for two weeks – they hadn't worn a mask or even owned one prior to January.

"Some say it was dramatic of our government to launch us into intense house lockdown panic, but I reckon five days is merely nothing as we were able to control it and a week later, back to normal again. Really normal. I don't even think we know what social distancing is."

During the lockdown, the only time in this past year in which Russell and her partner had to wear masks, Gilmour proposed.

"And honestly? I wouldn't change a thing," said Russell. "What a story to tell the grandkids about why we had masks on in the photo. It's a great representation of the times we are in, even if we are less affected."

(She said "yes"!)

For many, though they are grateful to have a job, it has not been easy to work during the pandemic, pivoting to work from home or working with the public in situations made stressful due to thinking about public health recommendations to physically distance from each other, sanitize areas that have come into contact with others, limit customers in a space and implement mask wearing protocols.

Janet Sheehey, who owns Janknit's Studio in Haliburton, has had a challenging year.

"I watch a lot of U.S. news, so when I saw how quickly the virus was spreading I knew we would be shutting down too," she said of the start of the pandemic last March.

Sheehey has not enjoyed working during the pandemic, but has found ways to adapt her store to make working through it more manageable.

"When we were allowed back open I couldn't keep my eyes on everyone coming in the door, especially when I was working with a customer," she said. "So I decided to keep my store door locked and installed a door bell, that way nobody came in without me opening up and making sure masks were on and hands got sanitized."

Her customers have brought positivity to the difficult situation as well.

"On the whole most of my customers would ask how I was doing so I know people cared about me," she said.

"I did find most of us were on our last nerve and when you are working with the public you have to have a positive attitude, and that I found a struggle." The worry of working in retail and keeping others safe has been stressful, as well.

"My aunt passed away and so did my mum's husband and I didn't get to any of the funerals," she said. "My mum turned 90 and we couldn't celebrate or see her. With me working with the public, I didn't feel safe I could even visit my mum, as I had no idea who walking into my store could be carrying the virus."

Even though she said she has "hated working," she said, "thank God I live in Haliburton," where she has felt "deep down safe in our town."

Just before the pandemic was declared, Erin Nicholls was taking the HHSS curling team, including his son, to Chatham, where they won the 2020 Ontario Provincial School Championships for boys, and then to Stirling, where they won COSSA.

"We were looking so forward to OFSAA," he said. "At the same time, we were getting ready for my daughter's volleyball team to go to provincials, but that's when I realized our world was changing and everything was cancelled."

Erin Nicholls has been busy during the pandemic - besides working in the real estate industry, he has picked up his guitar after 35 years and been a regular contributor to the Music From Home Facebook page. /Submitted

Not being able to see his kids in sporting events, and feeling like they are missing out, has been hard for the West Guilford parent. Learning to live differently during the pandemic – missing family's special days, and also adapting to public health guidelines – has also been difficult.

"Going to grocery stores and not recognizing anyone anymore with masks, it just leaves you with such a strange feeling of the world we are in," he said.

To cope, Nicholls goes for hikes in the woods and spends time with his kids.

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In the past year, he also took out the guitar he hadn't touched in over 35 years and learned to play again, posting videos on the Music From Home Facebook page started by Minden resident Brent Coltman to offer a place for people to share and come together during the first provincial lockdown.

There have been other positives for Nicholls: "Meeting some amazing people that I believe I would have never met if it hadn't been for this," he said. "I have so many new friendships even without actually meeting them through the power of social media. And, of course, more time with my kids with not being able to do much so that was a positive as well."

Being part of the boom in real estate was a memorable part of the year for Nicholls, a sales representative with the Trillium Team.

He said he will remember how people came together and helped each other in so many ways to offer support to get through tough times.

"I will remember a lot of time missing out, but also the great times we have shared on these music sites, for sure, the most, and the joy we have brought to people – especially older people – helping get through it," he said. "Also, I will remember the frontline people and all they have been through to deal with this and keep everyone safe. Forever grateful to them."

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School teacher Jennifer Paton retired in January with a virtual send-off after more than 30 years of teaching. / Submitted

Jennifer Paton might still owe her husband for a lost bet.

"For March Break last year, we had plans to fly to Revelstoke [in British Columbia] to stay with friends and ski the mountain," she said. "I remember days and days of watching the news and wondering if we should cancel, and definite relief when we did, and it turned out to be a good decision. By that point we also knew that schools would be closed for two weeks, and my husband predicted that they wouldn't re-open before June, and I was sure he was wrong. I think I still owe him $5 for that bet."

Paton was able to spend the summer in Revelstoke, where she said "life seemed practically normal."

In the fall, she watched as the school system pivoted to new practices for teaching – mandatory masks for all, online learning for some, and the secondary school putting octomesters into place to help students learning at the high school in small cohorts.

"[I] saw the creativity and dedication of the teachers, and the students trying their very best," she said.

Paton, a longtime teacher, is aware of the challenges the pandemic has posed for both students and school staff.

"It's really hard to see young people, who should be starting something new (post-secondary or career), with such uncertainty in a confusing time. Teachers have been turning themselves inside out to help students, and they are burning out. And teachers with young children have the hardest time. But all they can do is make school as good as possible under the circumstances, and that's not enough for lots of students."

While Haliburton County residents have always struggled with inadequate internet capabilities, the reliance on it during the pandemic – for online schooling, virtual medical appointments, working from home and for boredom busters including movie and TV streaming – made poor connections exceptionally challenging.

"Our eldest suddenly came home from university, and our youngest started university, but they're both at home and we have terrible internet," said Paton. "They have worked out an arrangement with another family nearby that has been terrific for all, and I think it's helped them stay positive about school and life."

Paton has found positivity in moments that have gone differently than planned.

"I got to watch my youngest daughter graduate from high school sitting around the dining room table with my family instead of wearing high heels, a black gown and university hood in the hot, crowded gym," she said.

In January, she retired from just more than 30 years of teaching with a virtual celebration that family could join in from afar.

"Since retiring, I have skied every day in February, and it's been such a great winter for the trails," she said. "It's been a year like no other, and it's been a very good year for me … I'm very aware that I have been lucky, with job security and good health and a love of being outside. People's experiences are so different, depending on their jobs, age and family situation."

Though Paton expected to have an empty nest this year, instead she has been able to spend time with her family … and sourdough, which saw a boost in popularity when people were staying at home as the pandemic first began.

"I make fantastic sourdough bread now," said Paton. "If I do say so myself."

A year ago, Melissa Tong was sailing in the Caribbean with friends, having the time of her life.

"Little did we know that international travel and making friends with strangers was all about to change," she said.

The most challenging aspect of the pandemic, said Tong, has been navigating uncertainty.

"In the beginning, balancing the need for social interactions and maintaining physical distance seemed almost impossible, a contradictory," she said. "The fear of 'what if' starts to plague you and bring you down more than ever. To make the assumption that everyone is contagious, was absolutely terrifying."

It was also challenging for Tong when she was told she was not able to work and experienced the uncertainty of not knowing when her next paycheque would come.

"All my income sources came to a halt," she said. "I had to exercise calm … Survival of the fittest really means at the very least, the ability to adapt to new circumstances and for some of us to be renegades and try something new. I know for my fellow registered massage therapists and healthcare workers, we've all had to change, adapt on how we do business. I think that really applies to all things, people and businesses."

Tong, a Haliburton resident, has taken advantage of the space Haliburton County has to offer, connecting with nature through snowshoeing, foraging, paddling and sleeping under the stars.

"On the brighter side, this pandemic has given me the opportunity to really clarify what I need to survive," she said. "I need people. I need connection. I need laughter and real emotions. It's a fundamental human need. So, time to find my bubble buddies to whom I can share real feelings with, have a good laugh or tears with and who can get my butt moving."

The pandemic has also given Tong time with her thoughts.

Melissa Tong said that in Haliburton County, she has been able to "be active, connect with nature, to clear my thoughts, to see beauty everywhere." This photo was taken at the Black River in Algonquin Highlands, part of the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails./Submitted

"I think this applies to all ages and stages of life: Life is only what you make of it," she said. "It's your thoughts that counts the most. Happiness is matter of perspective and only you can change that. Although the light at the end of a very long tunnel seems near, expect turbulence to return. Things will not go back to normal as we are all different now than who we were a year ago. I think the goal here is to ride the waves as they come."

Trevor Brauer, a Kinmount resident, has long been known for being an active member of the community, involved with work, volunteer positions, as an athlete, and as a regular participant in Community Living programs. Cancellations in March 2020 ended all of that, with Brauer noting his life in the community changed – first with the loss of his job at Molly's Bistro and his volunteer position at the Dysart municipal office.

"I had friends in both of these places that I miss," he said.

Twice a week he attended Community Living programs – reading skills, exercise, cooking – but those were cancelled, too, and though some programs and activities were online, he didn't have access to good internet service.

"I also used their WiFi," he said. "That was cancelled."

Special Olympics athletic programs, including Brauer's curling and golf, were also cancelled.

"The most challenging part of COVID-19 was not seeing friends and family," Brauer said of the past year. "Finding things to do in summer wasn't so bad, I cut the grass for my dad and I could go swimming anytime I wanted because we live on the Irondale river."

He also found things to do inside, finding a new hobby in painting bird houses for the garden and wooden Christmas ornaments with his mom's folk art paints.

"My mom was home more often so we got to do some baking," he said. "My mom thought I should learn how to iron, so I tried that, too."

Brauer also adopted Pretty Girl, or P.G., into his life.

"We got a new kitten in July and she has kept me busy, playing and getting into mischief," he said. "I am very happy that I live at home with my parents and our kitten."

Still, Brauer is very much looking forward to the day when life once again has more of the purpose that he thinks makes him most thrive, one that includes a job to go to, and group sports with his friends.

"I had a driver's licence and nowhere to go," he said.

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"I hope we will get back to life [like] before COVID-19 very soon."

A pandemic was not going to stop the Birthday Club from showering Lois Rigney with well wishes.

"Positive things have happened during this past year as I am blessed with wonderful neighbours and friends," said Rigney, a Canning Lake resident. "On my recent birthday, normally the gals in the Birthday Club would gather at one's home to celebrate with a delicious dinner and cards. Two of them wearing masks arrived at my door with cards, gifts, plate of cookies and a wee one candle cake. As it was announced on Canoe FM radio the phone rang all day long with well wishers."

The moment was a bright spot for Rigney, who lives alone after the loss of her husband nine years ago, and has been dealing with isolation over the past year.

"I have learned about Zoom and YouTube as my church eventually closed, and I attend the service on YouTube and board meetings on Zoom," she said. "I miss my Bible Study in my friends' home but we phone each other. If I can, weather permitting, I walk the country roads from my home and sometimes meet friends and have a chat with my mask on. I cope by phoning friends regularly. We call it 'checking in with the elderly' and it is great to talk to someone when you live alone and don't use your voice enough."

While she has seen her daughter and her family, who have come to help with yard work or be with her to celebrate holidays – Rigney hasn't seen her son's family, including two grandsons, "since all this began."

Though they can't meet in person, Rigney still chairs the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group, trying to keep the group connected and spirits raised by sending a weekly e-mail with a funny picture, inspirational quote, health news, funny jokes, and a reminder to "reply all to keep the chat going."

"They are a chatty group," said Rigney. "That keeps me focused and busy."

She said that, being a "hugger," she longs for the day when masks can be thrown away and she can hug someone again.

"My faith keeps me going and I pray daily that this will soon end, as well as for friends I have lost through other illnesses," she said. "We need to try to stay positive and we will get through this. Acts of kindness are everywhere. Let's

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Above, Rachel Lower of Song of the Woods Studio in Tory Hill said she became obsessed with birding during the pandemic. "This picture is of a yellow warbler, one of 18 species of warbler I spotted in Haliburton County last year," she said. "iNaturalist.ca only has 24 warblers listed for our area; I was six shy of the whole set. Overall, I saw over 80 species of birds and got photographs in most cases. Some pandemic days I spent hours scouring the bush for them. It was a continuous memorable moment." / Submitted

The Sisson family had a 2020 April Easter gathering like no other - online, joining households together virtually during stay-at-home orders./ Submitted by Mary Sisson

"The day schools got cancelled and we turned around from our March Break Toronto trip," said mom Emily Boyko of this photo taken of wee Vienna last March. "Traffic was already quiet in Toronto." /Submitted

Diane Peacock set up her camera to take this photo of herself with her family during the Virtual Terry Fox Run for Minden on Sept. 20 last year. "This was the first year that we were able to participate as a family," said Peacock, who in previous years had been organizer and was unable to participate alongside husband Perry and daughter Caitlin./ Submitted photo

"I started this challenging model of HMS Victory some time ago," said David Mills. "Staying safe at home gave me time to get it finished." /Submitted

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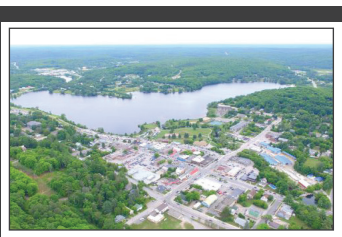


Adele Barry
705-457-0306

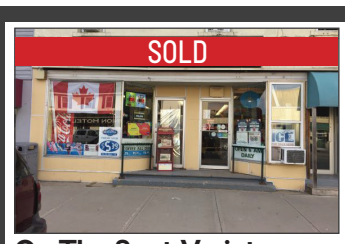
Thinking of buying or selling?

• I have buyers for a wide range of price points. I can provide a current market valuation for your property.

Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Kushog Lake $1,400,000

• 571 ft of prime waterfront, 5.5 acres
• Borders 1000 ft Crown Land
• Private



Andy Campbell
854-0292

On The Spot Variety

• Well established main street location
• Increasing lottery commission/revenues
• Suitable for family business

Gloria Carnochan* & Brean Budel*
754-1932

Desirable Bitter Lake $695,000

• 3 Bdrm, Yr Rd, Internet, Good Fishing, Swimming
• Open Concept Lr/Dr/Kit, Laundry, Hot Tub, Garage
• Lg Deck Area For Entertaining, Summer Or Winter

Mark Dennys*
457-0473

Ski Hill Chalet $1,195,500

• Approx 152 Ft Rd Frtg, 1.05 Acres
• 1727 Sq Ft, 3 Bdm, 2 x 4 pc Bath
• 1120 Sq Ft Heated Grg
• Direct Ski Hill Access

Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

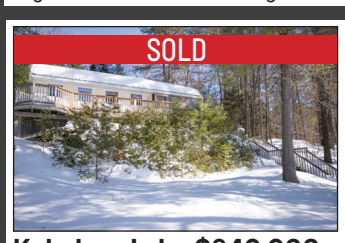
Rockcliffe Tavern

• Sold but not forgotten
• The rebirth is in the works
• Stay tuned.

Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Commercial property in Haliburton

• Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
• Rental house as an added feature
• Sale includes land, & building



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

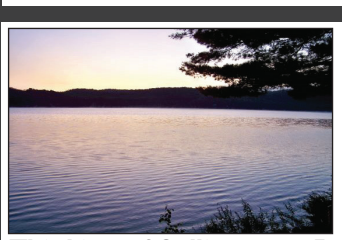
Kabakwa Lake $849,900

• 4-season lakefront cottage
• Open concept with 2 bedrooms
• 170 FT of clean rock/sand shoreline
• Stunning due west, sunset exposure

Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Mink Rd. $109,900

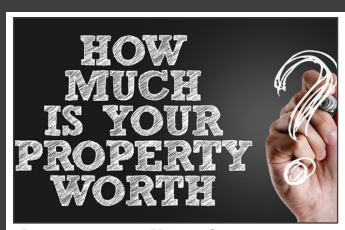
• Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
• Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
• Year-round Municipal Road access
• Minutes to Haliburton Village



David Lee*
286-2138 x 227

Thinking of Selling your Property?

• Please give me a call. I would be glad to help.
• 35 years experience selling in Haliburton County



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

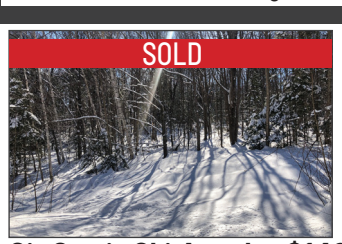
Are you selling?

• Give me a call..... I can help

Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Drag River $74,900

• 1.05 acre building lot
• Private, yr round road
• Hydro at lot line



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

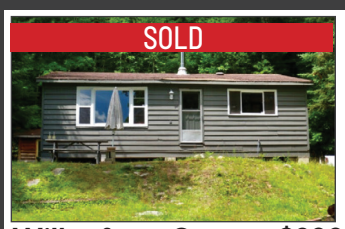
Sir Sam's Ski Area lot $146,000

• 2 acre lot, pretty peaceful setting
• Minutes to ski hill, public beach, golf
• Yr round road, hydro at lot line

Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 230

Industrial Park Rd $1,200,000

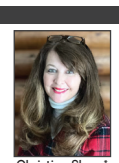
• 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
• Private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton, unlimited possibilities with this fantastic building!



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Wilberforce Cottage $299,000

• Small quiet lake,
• Cottage needs a little work,
• Very private



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

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• Non-waterfront up 110%*, Waterfront up 79%*
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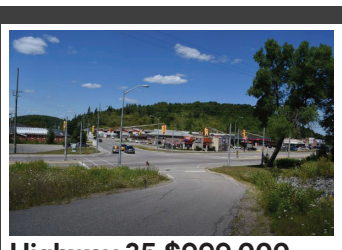
*(Jan2020-Jan2021 The Lakelands Assoc.)



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Highway 35 $999,000

• Great commercial lot right on highway 35
• Close to new business developments
• Fantastic business opportunity

Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Kennisis River $449,000

• 2 Bedroom/1 bath cottage
• Western Exposure, 178' Frontage
• Kayak/Canoe into Hall's Lake

Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

Minden Building Lot $169,900

• Excellent location with maximum exposure
• Commercial zoning with many possible uses
• Investment or your own business

Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Haliburton Multi-Rental $395,000

• 2x2 bedrooms, 1x1 bedroom
• Hydro metered separately, parking
• Coin laundry, drilled well, muni sewer

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Plus HST & Licensing

$140/WK

2021 RAM 1500 SXT
Stock #21006
4X4 / QUAD CAB / V6 / HTD SEATS / TOW / BEDLINER / SATELLITE RADIO / BLUETOOTH / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE START!
MSRP $54,231 OUR PRICE $51,499
Plus HST & Licensing

$187/WK

2021 RAM 1500 REBEL 4X4
Stock #21038
4X4 / HEMI V8 / CREW CAB / LEATHER / PANORAMIC SUNROOF / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / PWR PEDALS / PARK ASSIST / TOW / BACKUP CAM!
MSRP $75,933 OUR PRICE $68,811
Plus HST & Licensing

$98/WK

2021 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT
Stock #21021
4X4 / 2.4L / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / HTD SEATS / BACKUP CAM / CRUISE CONTROL / A/C / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
MSRP $38,261 OUR PRICE $35,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$109/WK

2021 JEEP CHEROKEE ALTITUDE
Stock #21028
4X4 / V6 / LEATHER / HTD SEATS / PANORAMIC SUNROOF / BACKUP CAM / NAV / REMOTE START / BLUE-TOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO!
MSRP $46,011 OUR PRICE $39,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$104/WK

2021 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK
Stock #21012
4X4 / V6 / HTD SEATS / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / PARK ASSIST / SATELLITE RADIO!
MSRP $44,171 OUR PRICE $37,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$209/WK

2021 RAM 1500 SPORT
Stock #21037
4X4 / HEMI V8 / CREW CAB / SPLIT TAILGATE / REMOTE START / LEATHER / HTD & COOLED SEATS / SUNROOF / 12" SCREEN / NAV / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH!
MSRP $83,760 OUR PRICE $76,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$122/WK

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC EXPRESS
Stock #21056
4X4 / V6 / CREW CAB / BEDLINER / TOW / BACKUP CAM / 20" RIMS / SATELLITE RADIO / REMOTE ENTRY / BLUETOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL!
MSRP $55,800 OUR PRICE $44,921
Plus HST & Licensing

$115/WK

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC SXT PLUS SUB ZERO
Stock #21044
4X4 / V6 / QUAD CAB / HTD SEATS / TOW / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE START / BEDLINER / BLUETOOTH / VINYL FLOOR / SATELLITE RADIO!
MSRP $54,125 OUR PRICE $42,081
Plus HST & Licensing

$115/WK

2021 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK
Stock #21005
4X4 / V6 / HTD SEATS / SUNROOF / TOW / PWR LIFTGATE / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH!
MSRP $48,751 OUR PRICE $41,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$120/WK

2021 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK ELITE
Stock #21007
4X4 / V6 / LEATHER / SUNROOF / BACKUP CAM / TECH GROUP / TOW / HTD & COOLED SEATS / NAV / REMOTE START / PWR LIFT-GATE / BLUETOOTH!
MSRP $48,860 OUR PRICE $43,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$144/WK

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE
Stock #21053
4X4 / V6 / HTD SEATS / SUNROOF / TOW / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH / NAV / SATELLITE RADIO / REMOTE START!
MSRP $60,400 OUR PRICE $52,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$199/WK

2021 RAM 2500 TRADESMAN
Stock #21064
4X4 / CUMMINS / CREW CAB / BACKUP CAM / TOW / BLUETOOTH / VINYL FLOOR / TOW MIRRORS / SNOW CHIEF GRP / 5TH WHEEL PREP / BEDLINER / BED STEP!
MSRP $79,270 OUR PRICE$73,301
Plus HST & Licensing

$226/WK

2021 RAM 3500 BIG HORN
Stock #21032
4X4 / CUMMINS / CREW CAB / HTD SEATS / 12" SCREEN / BACKUP CAM / NAV / SUNROOF / REMOTE START / PWR PEDALS / 5TH WHEEL PREP / BEDLINER / TOW!
MSRP $89,075 OUR PRICE $83,106
Plus HST & Licensing

$205/WK

2021 RAM 5500 CHASSIS TRADESMAN
Stock #21055
4X4 / CUMMINS / REG CAB / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH / REMOTE ENTRY / SIDE STEPS / BACKUP ALARM / SATEL-LITE RADIO / VINYL FLOOR!
MSRP $76,245 OUR PRICE$75,276
Plus HST & Licensing

$144/WK

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE
Stock #21060
4X4 / V6 / HTD SEATS / TOW / SUN-ROOF / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / BLUETOOTH / NAV / REMOTE START / PWR LIFTGATE / SATELLITE RADIO!
MSRP $60,280 OUR PRICE $52,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$161/WK

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED Stock #21030
4X4 / V6 / LOADED / HTD & COOLED SEATS / SIDE STEPS / BRIGHT PEDALS TOW / LANE KEEP ASSIST / PARK ASSIST / FORWARD COLLISION WARNING / ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL!
MSRP $66,866 OUR PRICE $58,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$155/WK

2021 JEEP GLADIATOR OVERLAND
Stock #21042
4X4 / V6 / LEATHER / HTD SEATS / DUAL TOP / BEDLINER / NAV / TON-NEAU COVER / TOW / ALPINE AUDIO / REMOTE START / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH!
MSRP $63,065 OUR PRICE $56,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$86/WK

2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN PREMIUM PLUS
Stock #20106
V6 / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / STOW 'N GO / PWR DRIVER SEAT / REMOTE START / CRUISE CONTROL / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO!
MSRP $46,185 OUR PRICE $31,499
Plus HST & Licensing

$93/WK

2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Stock #20052
V6 / HTD SEATS / DVD / BACKUP CAM / NAV / PARK ASSIST / REMOTE START / PWR LIFTGATE & SLIDING DOORS / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BLUETOOTH!
MSRP $48,655 OUR PRICE $33,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$94/WK

2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN PREMIUM PLUS
Stock #20092
V6 / BACKUP CAM / HTD SEATS / PARK ASSIST / NAV / DVD / REMOTE START / STOW 'N GO / PWR DOORS!
MSRP $49,256 OUR PRICE $34,499
Plus HST & Licensing

$152/WK

2021 JEEP GLADIATOR SPORT S
Stock #21011
4X4 / V6 / STITCHED LEATHER / SILL GUARDS / DUAL TOP / HTD SEATS / BACKUP CAM / TOW / BEDLINER / TON-NEAU COVER / NAV / REMOTE START!
MSRP $61,711 OUR PRICE $55,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$117/WK

2021 JEEP WRANGLER WILLYS SPORT
Stock #21033
4X4 / V6 / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO / HARD TOP / CRUISE CONTROL / BACKUP CAM / TOW / SILL GUARDS & RAILS!
MSRP $46,670 OUR PRICE $42,999
Plus HST & Licensing

$147/WK

2021 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED WILLYS
Stock #21061
4X4 / TURBO / HTD SEATS / DUAL TOP / TOW / REMOTE START / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO / PROTECTION RAILS / SILL GUARDS!
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OUR PRICE $18,999
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2014 KIA SORENTO LX STOCK #2721
AWD / V6 / BLUETOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL / SATELLITE RADIO / HTD SEATS / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS / REMOTE ENTRY / PARK ASSIST!
OUR PRICE $12,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2018 JEEP COMPASS TRAILHAWK STOCK #21048A
4X4 / 2.4L / LEATHER / NAV / TOW / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / PWR LIFTGATE / PANORAMIC SUNROOF / BLUETOOTH / PWR DRIVER SEAT!
OUR PRICE $23,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2015 NISSAN ROGUE SV STOCK #21003B
CLEAN CARFAX / 2.5L / REMOTE ENTRY / BLUETOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL / HTD SEATS / BACKUP CAM / PANORAMIC SUNROOF / PWR DRIVER SEAT!
OUR PRICE $13,525
Plus HST & Licensing

2016 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA STOCK #2714
4X4 / CLEAN CARFAX / V6 / HARD TOP / HTD SEATS / LEATHER / REMOTE START / ALPINE AUDIO / NAV / TOW / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO!
OUR PRICE $29,899
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 CHEVROLET SPARK 1LT CVT STOCK #2694
PREVIOUS DAILY RENTAL / CLEAN CARFAX / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE ENTRY / BLUETOOTH / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS / CRUISE CONTROL!
OUR PRICE $11,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2018 GMC TERRAIN SLE STOCK #20160A
AWD / CLEAN CARFAX / 1.5L / NAV / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO / REMOTE START / HTD SEATS / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BACKUP CAM / TOW!
OUR PRICE $23,799
Plus HST & Licensing

2013 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA STOCK #2727

CLEAN CARFAX / 4X4 / V6 / HTD SEATS / HARD TOP / BLUETOOTH / REMOTE ENTRY / SATELLITE RADIO / ALPINE PREMIUM AUDIO!

OUR PRICE $18,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT STOCK #2677

CLEAN CARFAX / V6 / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / STOW 'N GO / REMOTE ENTRY / CD / CRUISE CONTROL / A/C / 7 SEATS!

OUR PRICE $22,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CVP STOCK #2725
CLEAN CARFAX / ONE OWNER / V6 / 7 SEATS / REMOTE ENTRY / CRUISE CONTROL / BACKUP CAM / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
OUR PRICE $22,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 CHEVROLET SPARK 1LT CVT Stock #2693
FAX / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE ENTRY / BLUETOOTH / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS / CRUISE CONTROL!
OUR PRICE $11,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2014 CHEVROLET TAHOE LTZ STOCK #2705
4X4 / V8 / CLEAN CARFAX / LEATHER / HTD & COOLED SEATS / DVD / NAV / BACKUP CAM / RUNNING BRDS / SUNROOF / PWR LIFTGATE / BLUETOOTH!
OUR PRICE $19,498
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 FORD FIESTA SE STOCK #2699
PREVIOUS DAILY RENTAL / CLEAN CARFAX / BLUETOOTH / BACKUP CAM / HTD SEATS / REMOTE ENTRY / CRUISE CONTROL!
OUR PRICE $14,999 OR $47/WK
OUR PRICE $12,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2018 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE STOCK #21057A
CLEAN CARFAX / ONE OWNER / 4X4 / DOUBLE CAB / V8 / BLUETOOTH / BEDLINER / TOW / SIDE STEPS / REMOTE START / BACKUP CAM / PWR DRIVER SEAT!
OUR PRICE $34,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2020 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE STOCK #21043A
CLEAN CARFAX / V6 / LEATHER / HTD & COOLED SEATS / TOW / REMOTE START / BACKUP CAM / PANORAMIC SUNROOF / NAV / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO!
OUR PRICE $34,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH 4X4 STOCK #21040A
CLEAN CARFAX / ONE OWNER / 4X4 / V6 / PWR LIFTGATE / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / PWR DRIVER SEAT / PARK ASSIST / BLIND SPOT DETECTION!
OUR PRICE $29,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2018 FORD FUSION SE STOCK #2706
CLEAN CARFAX / 2.5L / LEATHER / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL / SATELLITE RADIO!
OUR PRICE $15,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2019 FORD ECOSPORT TITANIUM STOCK #2709
CLEAN CARFAX / 4X4 / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / LEATHER / SUNROOF / NAV / BACKUP CAM / SATELLITE RADIO!
OUR PRICE $19,499
Plus HST & Licensing

2014 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI STOCK #20162B
CLEAN CARFAX / 2.0L / DIESEL / LEATHER / PWR SUNROOF / BLUETOOTH / HTD SEATS / REMOTE ENTRY
OUR PRICE $7,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2017 RAM 1500 EXPRESS STOCK #21059A
CLEAN CARFAX / 4X4 / HEMI V8 / QUAD CAB / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE ENTRY / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO / CRUISE CONTROL / TOW!
OUR PRICE $28,993
Plus HST & Licensing

2016 TOYOTA COROLLA S STOCK #21045A
BRAND NEW WINTER TIRES AND BRAKES / HTD SEATS / BACKUP CAM / BLUETOOTH / SUNROOF / REMOTE ENTRY / CRUISE CONTROL / A/C!
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Plus HST & Licensing

2018 JEEP WRANGLER JK SPORT STOCK #21023A
CLEAN CARFAX / 4X4 / V6 / SOFT TOP / BLUETOOTH / TOW / SATELLITE RADIO / 16" STEEL RIMS / A/C / CRUISE CONTROL / MANUAL WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
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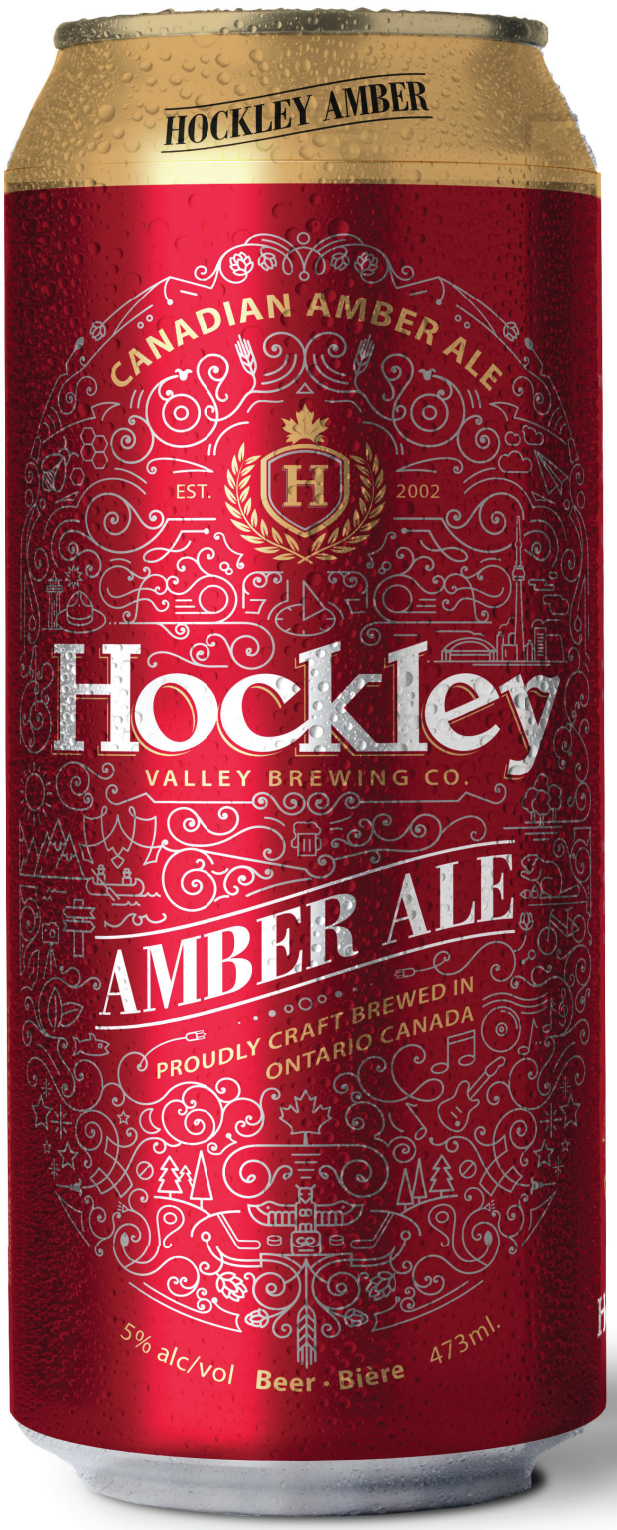

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Wilberforce, Haliburton Rotary and Juniors host bonspiels

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Lochlin Olympics
They're even more fun than Nagoano's version... see page 28

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
The Voice of the Highlands since 1884

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Maple syrup season has a short but sweet beginning

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Unusually mild weather over the past two weeks caused one of the earliest starts to the maple syrup season in the Highlands in recent memory.

But it appears the first run of the sugar bush will be short and sweet.

A cold snap expected to hit the area as early as today will likely turn off the taps — at least temporarily — for the county's maple syrup producers.

"We're off and we're running, but we could be stopped abruptly," Godfrey Tyler said Friday, as he tended to hundreds of litres of sap boiling in an evaporator at Waverly Brook Farm. "We could start now, then have a cold spell which would shut us down. Then we'd start up again when it gets warmer."

It looks as though Tyler's prediction is about to come true.

Monday's weather forecast was calling for the temperature to drop sharply to between -7C and -9C overnight with daytime highs today of -4C to -6C.

Those temperatures would be cold enough to stop the sap from flowing after what one long-time syrup producer has called the earliest start he can remember.

Charlie Tyler, Godfrey's father, has been keeping records on the maple syrup season since 1938 when he took over Waverly Brook Farm from his father.

This year's start-up — March 5 for Waverly Brook — was two days earlier than the previous record during the 76 years the family has owned the Lochlin farm, he said.

But over at Iron Kettle Maple Products near Ingoldsby — the

See SWEET page 3

PRICE: 84 cents plus GST = 90 cents

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF PLAYING IT LIKE THIS? In a gentle but constructive way, adjudicator Charlene Biggs gave participants in the 2nd annual Haliburton Highlands Music Festival a few pointers on how to transform the notes on the page into beautiful music. Here, Joanna Logan and Meghan Bottum listen attentively to her critique of their duet. Story and more photos on page 21.

New board uses attrition to trim administration

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The area's new school board has begun its restructuring process, reducing the number of staff who work out of the three former board offices and asking some employees to take on new roles.

Trustees recently approved a plan to realign the board's administrative structure for its business and human resource departments.

The board expects the move will save it approximately $476,000.

There have been no direct layoffs because of the changes, noted acting education director Evelyn Brown. However, the combined administrative staff compliment at the board's offices in Haliburton, Lindsay and Bracebridge has been reduced by 11 per cent through attrition.

But layoffs can't be ruled out as the board further streamlines its operations.

"Until now the reductions have been through attrition," said Brown. "Whether or not we can continue to do that I don't know. I'm hoping we can because I know it is a tough world out there."

Administrative offices in Haliburton and Bracebridge will remain open, in addition to the Lindsay office which the board has selected as its interim headquarters.

Each of the offices will perform specific roles, but the board hasn't fully decided how the tasks will be divided.

"We'd very much like to have functions at all three former board offices, but what they'll be at this point we don't know," said board chair Cheryl Murdoch of Minden.

Rather than having to relocate from one office to another, some employees will be asked to take on new duties or new positions,

See BofE page 3

Head Lake contest has early return – just like spring

This may seem a little early, but in the strange winter of 1997-98, we've got to be prepared for all kinds of surprises.

The *Haliburton County Echo* is once again launching its "When Will the Ice Disappear from Head Lake?" contest. Usually we'd wait a few weeks before setting a deadline for entries, but when we saw a flock of geese trying to land on the lake on Monday, we knew there was no time to waste. El Niño certainly is changing all the rules for normal weather patterns.

So the next time you drive or walk past the lake, try to guess when you'll first see a wide expanse of open water and let the Echo know. The deadline for entries is March 20. Please give us your name, daytime phone number and the time and date you expect the ice to completely melt. The time is important since we often need to break a tie.

The winner will receive a year's subscription to *The Echo* and an *Echo* t-shirt.

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The Haliburton Real Estate Team

COMMERCIAL
THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL $1,950,000

One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living quarters with 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel.

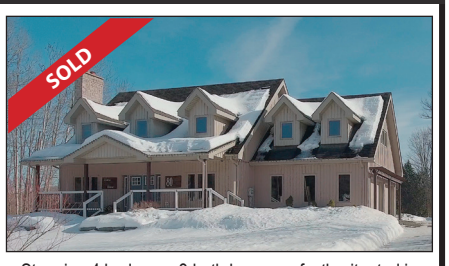
INGOLDSBY ROAD
$699,900

This 4-bedroom, 4 bath year-round home is perfectly situated amongst mature trees on 43+ acres. Enjoy beautiful sunsets. Bright kitchen finished with white cabinetry and large island. Living room has cedar cathedral ceilings and stone wood burning fireplace. Partially finished lower level with family room, and walkout to pretty back yard. This multi-level home features a double attached garage, storage sheds and ample space for the family to enjoy the outdoors.

REDSTONE RIVER
$699,000

Peace and tranquility are the perfect way to describe this stunning riverfront property. Beautiful 11+ acres with fields, forest, trails, and ample wildlife throughout. 3-bedroom, 3 bath year-round home features a bright eat-in kitchen finished with oak cabinetry and walk out to back deck. Open concept living space, large windows throughout providing ample natural lighting. Gorgeous views from sunken living room. Fully finished walkout basement Attached double garage.

HALBIEM CRES
$699,000



Stunning 4 bedroom, 3 bath home perfectly situated in the prestigious and sought after Haliburton By The Lake subdivision. Bright open concept living on the main level with large living room with wood burning fireplace. Located on the second level is a spacious primary bedroom and ensuite with heated tile floor, 3 additional bedrooms, main bathroom and family room with propane fireplace. Close to Haliburton village. Only a short walk to Head Lake. Access to HBTL Members-Only park. Level yard, double attached garage, peace and tranquility.

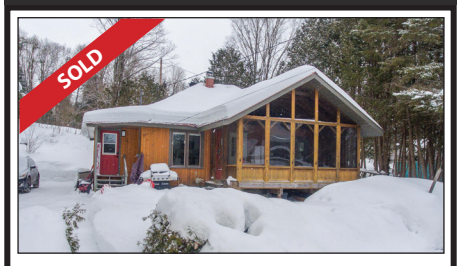
BOB LAKE
$699,000

This perfect year-round 3-bdrm, 2 bath home offers everything your family has dreamed of. Stunning western sunset views from a large sitting deck. 7.60-acre lot. Ultimate privacy and ample space for the kids and pets to play. Bright open concept living. Master bdrm with private balcony and stunning views.

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE RD $699,000

This stunning year-round home/cottage is conveniently located between the town of Minden and Haliburton village. Main floor features a bright open concept living space, wood cabinetry, powder room and in-floor radiant heat. The second floor offers 3 bdrms, 1 bath, 19-foot vaulted ceilings and stunning maple hardwood flooring. This beautiful home was built in 2016 on a 113+ acre parcel of land.

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE $479,000



This cute and cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home. Located in the heart of Ingoldsby. Many recent improvements include, flooring throughout, windows, drilled well, new propane furnace and many more. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry and granite counter tops. The beautiful Haliburton room with stunning lake views. Great aluminum docking system and excellent swimming and fishing across the road.

VACANT LOTS

LOUISE LANE
35+AC $275,000

NEW LISTING
KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE ROAD $139,500

BASSHALIN[illegible] LAKE ROAD 1.88AC $126,900 SOLD

VOICEY ROAD - 4.35AC SOLD
$99,000

BUSHWOLF LAKE ROAD LISTED TO SOLD IN 1 DAY
2.[illegible]AC $41,000

WEST [illegible]OT PLACE LISTED TO SOLD IN 1 DAY
2.[illegible] $31,500

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